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NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR
JACK LAYTON WINS SURVEY TOP SPOT BY WIDE MARGIN
{page 6}

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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WINNIPEG metro®
Weekend, December 23-25, 2011
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News worth sharing.

Merry Christmas ... and a happy honeymoon

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Mac Taruc and Erin Clarke will get their honeymoon after all, thanks to the generosity of one local travel agency.

The Great Canadian Travel Company and Metro Winnipeg team up to send young couple on dream trip to Jamaica

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC
@METRONEWS.CA

Christmas has come early for a couple who thought they would never be able to have a honeymoon.

When Mac Taruc and Erin Clarke won an all-inclusive trip to Jamaica, they thought they would get the honeymoon they couldn't afford. When they received news the prize did not include airfare, they were devastated.

After hearing about the couple's plight from Metro Winnipeg, Winnipeg-based The Great Canadian Travel Company decided to pay for the couple's airfare.

When Metro called the couple to tell them the good news, they were ecstatic.

"That's quite shocking, and great, and wonderful," said Taruc.

"That's amazing," said Clarke. "That's amazing generosity and words cannot seriously express (how I feel)."

The Great Canadian Travel Company president Max Johnson said he knew they could help.

The couple has until September 2012 to use their prize and airfare.

"Somebody gets stuck and you see if you can help. That's what we do. I hope they have a wonderful Christmas."
MAX JOHNSON, PRESIDENT, THE GREAT CANADIAN TRAVEL COMPANY

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Raising relief for the Philippines

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Fred De Villa

The Winnipeg Filipino community is coming together to provide relief to those affected by flash floods in the Philippines.

Fil-Can Disaster Relief Committee held its first donation drive Tuesday at the Philippine-Canadian Centre of Manitoba.

More than 1,000 people have been killed, and at least 800 are missing, after typhoon Washi caused flooding on the south Philippine island of Mindanao, destroying communities while villagers slept.

"It's shocking because it happened so quickly. Water came out at midnight while everyone was sleeping," said Fred De Villa, chairman of Fil-Can Disaster Relief Committee.

Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City were the hardest hit, with fatalities rising to 650 and 283 respectively.

"It's tragic and it's nature at its worst," said MLA Ted Marcelino. "It was almost like a tsunami hitting them; water from the mountain and a surge from the sea."

Marcelino said that the Filipino community in Winnipeg is tight-knit and they will do all they can to help their countrymen.

"It's almost automatic," he said.

Fil-Can is looking for cash donations as food items and clothing take too long to reach survivors. So far, the committee has raised $2,800 but is hoping to bring that total to at least $10,000.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

Shoppers gets thumbs up

Company said the idea to expand came from a Shoppers pharmacist

Wednesday's zoning decision by the Board of Adjustment approved Shoppers Drug Mart's expansion from 10,000 square feet to 17,600 square feet.

After three hours of listening to objections, the board made its decision, it said, on the merits of the application and "not on emotion."

A hundred vocal protesters brought more than 4,000 signatures opposing the development in Osborne Village and noted 677 people Liked Save Vi-Ann on Facebook. One resident referred to the building as "Fortress Shoppers."

"In this case we have a plan that has a clear set of criteria for conditional use, and administration feels strongly that the application be approved," said city planner Michael Robinson.

Paul McNeil, who was representing Shoppers, said the company is "a good corporate citizen" and that it works "to make a complete community."

During the meeting, the board reiterated numerous times it was Shoppers' right to expand upon purchase of the adjacent properties, Movie Village and Vi-Ann.

Vi-Ann owner, Bac Bui, has been trying to save his business since he first heard about the sale two weeks ago.

The restaurant's lease is up in June 2012, and according to the landlord's lawyer, the landlord doesn't have to renew Bui's lease.

Bui plans to contest the decision in front of the appeal committee, where Fort Rouge — East Fort Garry Coun. Jenny Gerbasi will rule on the expansion.

Gerbasi was not at the Board of Adjustment meeting, because she is on the appeal committee.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Bac Bui stands in front of the Board of Adjustment with his wife. Bui was wearing traditional Vietnamese funeral wear as the night of the hearing was the same night as his mother's funeral.

"You can put lipstick on a pig but it is still a pig. You can make it look like three buildings but it is really one. Stop looking at the baby boomers, like me, and look at the future. (The people protesting the expansion) are the customers and future of Osborne Village."

HARI DIMITRAKOPOULOU, PROTESTER

1 news

Hold on tightly to your significant other: experts say 'tis the season to be jilted. Scan code for story.

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A driver has a terrifying near-miss with a jack-knifing transport truck on a Russian highway. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ About 25 people gathered Wednesday night for a three-hour Occupy Winnipeg meeting.

Re-occupation plans underway

No plans to occupy Memorial Park in immediate future

SEAN LEDWICH
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

The camp is gone, but Occupy Winnipeg is hatching plans to continue its social activism and perhaps even re-occupy Memorial Park in the future.

Rob Gaumond, one of the occupiers evicted from the park on Wednesday, said a new camp committee will work to prepare a return to the park on March 15.

"That's the plan," Gaumond told Metro, noting it still needs to be ratified at a general assembly.

The park could see some tents before then, Gaumond said, albeit temporarily.

A large gathering will take place in the park on Dec. 31, a date previously slated as a voluntary end to the now-evicted camp, he said.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there's tents set up that night, just because of the desire to make a statement," Gaumond said.

Gaumond attended a three-hour OW meeting Wednesday night with about 25 people.

Discussions about future activism included "the mobile Occupy," which would see weekly social activism accompanied by some tents to bring "the spirit of the camp symbol with us," Gaumond said.

Meeting attendees discussed details for the first such action, labelled "Occupy Underground" on Facebook, which will see costumed activists distributing leaflets outside banks in and around the tunnels of Winnipeg Square on Friday.

Kristaps Balodis, also evicted from the park Wednesday, said ten members of OW are living together in two homes. He estimates there are 25 core OW members and about 100 people involved with the movement.

Hot off the DIY press

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Paul McNally stands next to the Espresso Book Machine on Monday.

Self-publishing and reprinting literary works are now available in Manitoba at a reasonable cost.

The Espresso Book Machine, one of 11 in the country and the only one in Manitoba, allows customers to print and bind their own works or reprint from more than four million digital titles from the press' Lightening Source and Google Books databases.

Now installed at McNally Robinson, the bookseller has also made an agreement with Harper Collins to use its catalogue of domestic and international titles.

"It's as strong as any book," said Paul McNally, owner of McNally Robinson, as he demonstrates the spin strength of the Espresso book compared to a traditional book off the shelf.

The interior of the book is printed in black and white from formatted PDF files converted from Word documents. Only the cover is in colour.

Customers can choose from 10 cover templates, and digital copies of the book are held indefinitely at the store.

There is no limit to the number of paperback books a customer can print, and printing costs are two cents a page, plus a $6 setup fee, which translates to $10 for a basic 200-page book.

McNally said the two reasons the company decided to purchase the book machine were to provide a vehicle for self-publishers and to have a quick stock of titles when the store is waiting for stock.

People interested in self-publishing or re-printing lost titles can visit the staff at McNally Robinson at Grant Park Shopping Centre.

Young. Clara

▶ Royal Winnipeg Ballet student Morgan Thiessen, as young Clara, rehearses her role in the RWB's Nutcracker at the Centennial Concert Hall.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

Nutcracker returns to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet

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What's open, what's not, what hours

Dec. 23
• Closed at noon: Civic offices.
• Garbage Day 3.

Dec. 24
• Closed at 1 p.m.: All libraries.
• Closed: All city pools, cemeteries.
• All leisure centres are closed except: Fort Rouge Leisure Centre, open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre, open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with free drop-in programming from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Freight House Recreation Centre, open 10 a.m. to noon.
• Animal Services: Open noon to 2 p.m.
• Assiniboine Park Zoo: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dec. 25
Closed: Civic offices, Brady Landfill, libraries and recreation centres, city cemeteries, Animal Services, Assiniboine Park Zoo.
• Transit: Sunday schedule.
• No garbage collection.

Dec. 26
• Closed: Civic offices, all libraries and recreation centres, city cemeteries, Animal Services.
• No garbage collection.

Dec. 27
• Closed: Civic offices.
• No garbage collection.
• Open: Christmas-tree recycling depots.
• Closed: Libraries, city cemeteries.
• Animal Services: Open noon to 5 p.m.

Dec. 31
• Closed at 4 p.m.: All city pools.
• All leisure centres are closed except: Fort Rouge Leisure Centre, open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre, open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with free drop-in programming from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Freight House Recreation Centre, open 10 a.m. to noon.
• Assiniboine Park Zoo: Open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Transit: Free from 9 p.m.

Jan. 1
• Closed: Brady Landfill, libraries and recreation centres, city cemeteries, Animal Services.
• Transit: Sunday schedule.

Jan. 2
• Closed: Civic offices, libraries and recreation centres, city cemeteries.
• No garbage collection.
• Animal Services: Open noon to 5 p.m.

ELISHA DACEY

Green Christmas, but that's OK, 'Peggers say

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

▶ The light dusting of snow on the ground could be gone entirely by Christmas Day.

Winnipeg not the only one Most Canadian cities lacking white stuff

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

If Metro Winnipeg's entirely unscientific survey is any indication, Winnipeggers aren't all that upset about the thought of a green Christmas.

"I've lived in Winnipeg all my life, and that's fine by me," said Stacy Ross, 33, who was waiting for a bus on Main Street on Thursday. "Bring it on."

Daniel Thunderbird agreed. "We always get hit with a white Christmas," said Thunderbird, 28, who lives in Elmwood. "Let it be green."

Environment Canada is calling for a balmy 2 C on Christmas Day. And bargain hunters take note: Boxing Day is looking even nicer, at 4 C.

As far as Metro Winnipeg's collective brains can recall, the last green Christmas was in 1997. A green Christmas is defined as when there is less than two centimetres of snow on the ground. And unless there's a freak snowstorm hiding in the Colorado Rockies, Winnipeg will be the recipient of one, said Dave Philips, Environment Canada's senior climatologist.

Out of the 10 people we questioned, only one expressed dismay at the thought of no snow on the ground at Christmastime.

"It doesn't feel like Christmas without it," said Sarah Martinson, 21. "It just looks drab and grey."

Speaking of weird weather, how about that flood?

Manitoba's unprecedented flooding has been named weather story of the year by Environment Canada.

"Westerners are usually ready for a good flood flight because they face high waters every year, but nobody could have prepared for the flood of 2011 that was unprecedented on so many fronts," the agency said on Thursday. "It was a recipe for disaster that started just before Halloween 2010, when a super-charged weather bomb dumped 50 to 100 mm of rain and big snows across the southern Prairies."

Here are Environment Canada's Top 10 weather stories for this year:

1. Historic flood fights in the West;
2. Slave Lake burning;
3. Richelieu flooding … Quebec's longest-lived disaster;
4. Down on the farm: Doom to boom;
5. Tornado hits Goderich in a wild week of weather;
6. Good night, Irene … and Katia, Maria and Ophelia;
7. Summer: Hummer or bummer?
8. Arctic Sea ice near record low;
9. Groundhog Day storm: Snowmageddon or snowbigdeal?
10. Wicked winds from the West.

ELISHA DACEY

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Chretien gets $200,000 compensation

The Federal Court has ordered the government to pay $200,000 each to former Liberal prime minister Jean Chretien and his late chief of staff — compensation for some of the legal costs they racked up fighting the findings of an inquiry into the sponsorship scandal.

The lump-sum payments, awarded last week by Judge Francois Lemieux, are the last chapter in a drawn-out court battle Chretien and Jean Pelletier waged against Justice John Gomery and the report he wrote on the scandal in 2005. Pelletier died in 2009 due to complications from colon cancer, but his estate continued to pursue the case in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Layton is Canada's Newsmaker of the Year

Late NDP leader won overwhelming majority of votes in two surveys — one by editors and news directors and another by the public online

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

No other Canadian dominated the headlines like Jack Layton in 2011.

John Gilbert Layton wore dozens of different name tags in his decades of public service: activist, guitarist, father and, finally, leader of the official Opposition.

Most knew the NDP leader by another name: Jack.

No other Canadian dominated the headlines like Layton in 2011, making him the clear choice for Newsmaker of the Year by editors and news directors participating in the annual survey of newsrooms across the country by The Canadian Press.

Layton received 90 per cent of the votes — one of the most overwhelming margins in the 65-year history of the CP Newsmaker voting. The next closest was Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who received just five per cent of the vote totals.

Also earning votes were Canada's new female premiers, the protesters at the heart of the Occupy Canada movement, former auditor general Sheila Fraser and the Grande Prairie Composite Warriors football team.

"Jack Layton singlehandedly shaped Canada's political narrative in 2011, from the decimation of the Bloc Québécois, to the marginalization of the Liberal party, to the utter vacuum left on Parliament Hill by his death," said Brodie Fenlon, senior news editor, The Huffington Post Canada.

"We watched the drama of this scrappy underdog, cane in hand, pulling off an astonishing victory only to be felled months later before he could truly make something of it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cherry a distant second

- **Layton claimed half of** the online votes cast, with hockey commentator Don Cherry a distant second at 16 per cent. Prime Minister Stephen Harper garnered 10 per cent of the vote, narrowly edging the Occupy Canada protesters at 9.5 per cent.
- **Stratford, Ont., pop sensation** Justin Bieber, who made tabloid headlines earlier this year when a fan named him in a paternity suit that she later dropped, rounded out the top five with 3.4 per cent of the vote.

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Wish comes true for girl who met Kate

Dad says 6-year-old's cancer has gone into remission

The shy, bald little girl who charmed Prince William and Kate when they visited Calgary in the summer has received her Christmas wish.

Diamond Marshall's father says she had surgery this week and the biopsies have shown her cancer is in remission, though she still must undergo chemotherapy and a bone-marrow transplant next month.

Diamond's brief meeting with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on a windy July day brought many Canadians to tears.

The six year old, who is battling Stage 4 undifferentiated sarcoma, had asked the Children's Wish Foundation for a chance to meet "a real princess."

She not only got to meet Kate, she managed to get in a hug with her idol and present her with flowers.

Diamond will spend Christmas in hospital recovering from the surgery, but her dad says they're all OK with that as long as they're together. If all goes well, Diamond will be home for New Year's Eve.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENTTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The Duchess of Cambridge hugs six-year-old Diamond Marshall as the Royal Couple arrives in Calgary on July 7.

"This is a wonderful piece of news, especially at this time of year and we will be thinking of Diamond in the coming year."

STATEMENT FROM WILL AND KATE

CANCER AWARENESS

Trouble over 'boobie' bracelet

Controversy is stirring at a Catholic school in Woodstock, Ont., over bracelets supporting breast-cancer awareness.

The bracelets read "I Love Boobies" and a 13-year-old student at St. Rita's Catholic School has been put on in-school suspension over them.

Kelly Millson has been urged by his parents to continue wearing them at school, but he says he is not allowed to be in class, in the hallways or anywhere other students are congregating.

But he did decide to take the bracelets off this week so he could go out for recess. School board superintendent Tamara Nugent says the decisions on dress code are made by each school's principal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bombers strike Baghdad

Tensions rise in Iraq as attacks, mere days after U.S. forces leave, threaten stability in war-torn country Blasts hit 11 neighbourhoods, kill dozens

A wave of 16 bombings ripped across Baghdad Thursday, killing at least 69 people in the worst violence in Iraq for months. The apparently co-ordinated attacks struck days after the last American forces left the country and in the midst of a major government crisis between Shiite and Sunni politicians that has sent sectarian tensions soaring.

The bombings may be linked more to the U.S. withdrawal than the political crisis, but all together, the developments heighten fears of a new round of Shiite-Sunni sectarian bloodshed like the one a few years back that pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the bombings bore all the hallmarks of al-Qaida's Sunni insurgents. Most appeared to hit Shiite neighbourhoods, although some Sunni areas were also targeted.

In all, 11 neighbourhoods were hit by either car bombs, roadside blasts or sticky bombs attached to cars. There was at least one suicide bombing and the blasts went off over several hours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KARIM KADIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Iraqi security forces and people gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on Thursday.

Deadly attack

- **The deadliest attack** was in the Karrada neighbourhood, where a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the office of a government agency.
- **At least 14 blasts went off** in the morning and two more in the evening.
- **Two police officers at the scene** said the bomber was driving an ambulance and told guards that he needed to get to a nearby hospital. After the guards let him through, he drove to the building where he blew himself up, the officers said.

France's genocide bill upsets Turkey

French lawmakers easily passed a measure Thursday to make it a crime to deny the mass killings of Armenians in 1915 by Ottoman Turks amounted to genocide. Turkey swiftly retaliated, ordering its ambassador home and halting official contacts, including some military co-operation.

Within hours of the vote on the bill, which would penalize those who deny the genocide, Turkey suspended joint military manoeuvres and restricting French military flights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friend or foe?

- **Turkey, a NATO member,** is a strategic ally of France and valued trading partner, and the moves diminish ties at a particularly crucial time. Paris and Ankara are both deeply involved in international issues from the uprising in Syria to Afghanistan.

Israel drops Gaza flotilla charges

Israel's attorney general has decided not to prosecute Israelis who participated in a Gaza-bound flotilla that was raided a year ago.

The suspects included an Israeli-Arab lawmaker and an Islamist leader.

Nine pro-Palestinian Turkish activists were killed when Israeli naval commandos stormed the Gaza-bound ships. The raid prompted an international outcry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TSX regulator plans to expedite enforcement

Ottawa can have national regulator with support of all provinces Quebec, Alberta and B.C. not on board

Canada's largest stock market watchdog is moving ahead with plans to speed up enforcement and says it will be business as usual with other provinces after the Supreme Court scrapped a planned national securities regulator.

Ontario Securities Commission chairman Howard Wetston said Thursday the regulator is focused on the best interests of its own investors and companies, though it will review a Supreme Court ruling that quashed the federal plan.

The regulator of Canada's dominant stock exchange — the TSX — has been developing new rules aimed at speeding up enforcement for securities law cases such as insider trading that drag on for years.

"We are currently dealing with important policy, enforcement, market infrastructure and other matters that will require our full commitment," Wetston said in a statement.

The Supreme Court turned down Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's plan as unconstitutional, which effectively puts an end to a years-long push for a unified body to oversee capital markets. But the court acknowledged Ottawa has a role in addressing systemic risk to the financial system.

Ontario supported the idea of a national regulator as home to the TSX. Several provinces said they would work to strengthen the current passport system where participating provinces recognize securities filings in other jurisdictions.

Canada is the only country in the G20 without a national securities regulator. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 122.95 (11,876.48)	+ 0.45¢ ($97.93¢ US)
OIL	**Natural gas**
+ 86¢ US ($99.53 US)	$3.169 US (+ 1.00¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,610.60 US (- $3.00 US)

Hitch. Hiker

▶ A man tries to catch a ride to Namur, Belgium, while trade-union members block a main boulevard in Brussels on Thursday. A 24-hour pre-Christmas public-sector strike to protest pension reform hit rail, road and bus traffic across Belgium.

GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protest hinders holiday travellers

Holiday strikes to protest austerity measures paralyzed ground traffic in Belgium, delayed flights in Paris and promised days of headaches for Christmas travellers around Europe.

$1,000 The domain names cost taxpayers nearly $1,000 to hold for two years.

Saskatoon scoops .xxx domains

The City of Saskatoon has bought six Internet domain names ending in .xxx, created earlier this year for the adult entertainment industry. The city says it's all about protecting its brand and image. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

EU debt crisis ups German immigration

ACROSS BORDERS. Recent figures show that immigration to Germany from countries hard hit by Europe's economic woes rose sharply in the first six months of the year.

The statistical office says the number of Greek citizens moving to Germany rose by 84 per cent to about 8,900, while the number of Spaniards from January to June rose 49 per cent to 7,250.

The agency says a total of 381,000 foreigners moved to Germany, among them about 250,000 citizens from the European Union — an increase of 29 per cent. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Earnings up across Canada

PAY CHEQUES. Average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees increased 1.4 per cent to $885.36 in October. Statistics Canada reports average weekly earnings were up 2.7 per cent from a year earlier.

The agency says the average work week was unchanged from October 2010 at 33.0 hours. Average weekly earnings rose in every province in the 12 months to October, led by growth in Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Debt, house prices threaten economy: IMF

RECOVERY. A combination of high household debt, overpriced housing and external economic problems are putting Canada's recovery at risk, the International Monetary Fund is warning. The most serious risk is the global environment, particularly the potential for Europe's sovereign debt issues to spiral out of control.

Household debt is 153 per cent of disposable income in the latest data and, the IMF says, Canadian homes are on average 10 per cent overpriced. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Consumers reluctant to make major purchases

The Conference Board of Canada's latest consumer confidence numbers are back to where they were around the height of the 2008-2009 recession, a troubling sign of what's to come for the economy in 2012.

The Ottawa think-tank said Thursday its Index of Consumer Confidence posted a 6.5-point drop in December, bringing 2011 to a "disappointing" close and signalling that further belt-tightening by Canadians.

The board uses a 2002 base of 100, which reflects how Canadians feel about the economy, job creation, future major purchases and their personal finances. It said opinion eroded on all four questions, but responses to the major-purchases question were particularly gloomy. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

69.9 At 69.9, the index is at its lowest point in more than two and a half years, down 11.1 from where it was at the end of 2010.

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PIPPA AND PERILS OF 2011

THE METRO LIST

NEIL MORTON
METRO

1 **Royal wedding:** Two billion people watched Will and Kate tie the knot — and Pippa Middleton's derriere become world famous.

2 **Steve Jobs:** The visionary Apple co-founder died at age 56, having led a dramatic cultural and technological transformation.

3 **Lindsay Lohan:** Lohan salvaged a terrible year with the law — and her career — by appearing on Playboy's bestselling cover (which also made Playboy relevant again).

4 **Lady Gaga:** She arrived at the Grammys being carried in a huge egg. Which is what you do when you're trying really hard to be cool.

5 **Ashton Kutcher & Demi Moore:** They break up — and in keeping with relationship etiquette in the Social Media Age, unfollow each other on Twitter.

6 **Kim Kardashian:** The woman famous for no reason has a marriage that only lasts 72 days for some reason. Oh yeah — it was her naked yoga instructor.

7 **Weinergate:** Congressman Anthony Weiner tweets a photo of his penis by mistake, resulting in countless "wiener" jokes, a scandal — and, naturally, his resignation.

8 **Margaret Atwood:** A public feud between Atwood and Toronto city councillor Doug Ford (Mayor Rob's older bro) leads to a cheeky "Atwood for Mayor" campaign.

9 **Amy Winehouse:** Joins the "27 club," a group of seminal musicians like Kurt Cobain, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison who died at age 27.

10 **Martha Stewart:** Martha Stewart tweets, "Do you think I am hip?" That's one of the tweets of the year.

11 **Kate Gosselin:** Her reality show is cancelled, and her kids now live in peace. As one blog noted, "(The kids) know not the craven greed machine they were plugged into."

12 **Tim Tebow:** The devout Christian NFL QB with an unorthodox throwing style who people keep saying will fail just keeps winning. And Tebowmania and "Tebowing" goes viral.

13 **Charlie Sheen:** After getting fired from Two and a Half Men, the troubled Sheen launches a bizarre Violent Torpedo Of Truth tour. Thankfully, he's off whatever Kool-Aid he was on.

14 **@bronxzoocobra:** A cobra escapes a zoo and someone creates a hilarious Twitter account that goes viral, tweeting its time on the run. (Other awesome Twitter accounts like @S–tGirlsSay also go viral this year.)

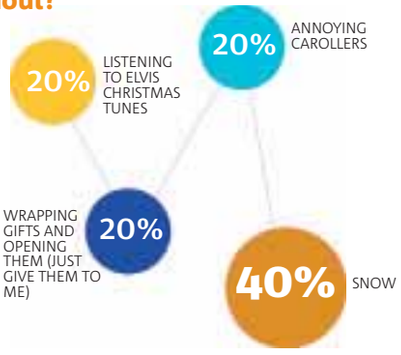
15 **Piers Morgan:** Morgan replaces the legendary Larry King on CNN but has the makings of a legend himself with his intelligent hardball-with-a-cheeky-grin Q & A style.

16 **Kissing Couple:** During the riots in Vancouver, post-NHL final, an image of a couple lying on a tear-gas-filled street having a tender kiss with riot police around gets circulated throughout the world — becoming one of 2011's iconic images.

Follow Neil Morton on Twitter (@neilmorton).

Metropolitan Panel
Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What holiday tradition could you do without?



Local tweets

- **@shelzolkewich:** "Give thanks for all you've been blessed with and hold your loved ones tight." On a Snowy Christmas Night by Elvis
- **@vinceleewpg:** @elishadacey "the best gift that you can give during this holiday season is time. Cherish it, but keep the egg nog handy. Merry Christmas."
- **@Omega_:** @metrowinnipeg Happy Atheist get time off, give and get lots of presents for no specific reason day!
- **@MurrayMoman:** @metrowinnipeg Happy Holidaze!
- **@nduhamel:** @metrowinnipeg You mean like when I wish people "Happy Festivus" just to confuse them?
- **@grumpylibrarian:** Also, when you tell people you're going to Winnipeg for Christmas, they instinctively cringe, although they've never been west of Ontario.
- **@shanae46:** It will Christmas in 3 days... And yet I live in Winnipeg.... There is still now snow. Green christmas this year?!? The snow gonna come!

BACK PAGE IMAGES/REX FEATURES

The karate keeper

Goalie and 'fan' clash on pitch

AMSTERDAM. Film buffs will say he took those moves straight out of 2001 martial-arts/sports movie mashup Shaolin Soccer. This striking image shows goalie Esteban Alvarado Brown, right, of AZ Alkmaar retaliate as he is attacked by a football hooligan during the Dutch cup match between Ajax and AZ Alkmaar.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"He walked to (the hooligan) and kicked him multiple times."
BAS NIJHUIS, REFEREE, ON WHY HE SENT OFF ALVARADO

How the kung fu soccer unfolded

TIMELINE. The drunk Ajax "fan," 19, invaded the pitch and launched a flying kick towards the Costa Rican goalkeeper. Alvarado lashed out a series of his own kicks before security dragged the supporter away. After the goalie was given a red card for misconduct, Alkmaar's angry coach Gertjan Verbeek ordered his team to leave the pitch. METRO WORLD NEWS

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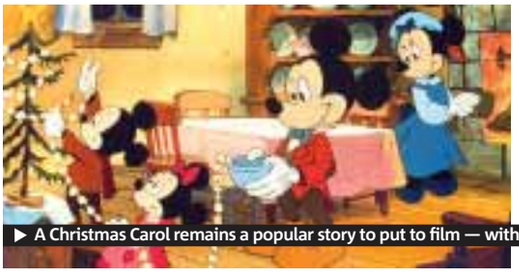


▶ A Christmas Carol remains a popular story to put to film — with at least 28 versions out there.

Synopsis

Since first being published in December 1843 Charles Dickens's story of Ebenezer Scrooge's emotional transformation from hoarder to Ho Ho-er has been presented in many forms. A Christmas Carol has been adapted into opera, ballet, a Broadway musical and even a mime show starring Marcel Marceau. On film there have been at least 28 versions of the story and dozens more for television. This week the Reel Guys have a look at the best big screen versions of the classic story.

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Bah, humbug!

Sim, Murray and Carrey have all played the miser who finds redemption
Crouse and Breslin debate the best movie version of A Christmas Carol

Richard: Mark, there is only one must-see out of all the dozens of film and TV versions of the Charles Dickens classic and that's the 1951 Alastair Sim version. Nearly perfect in every way, it is a tale of redemption that confirms the fundamental spiritual nature of Christmas itself. In other words, it makes us feel good. Accept no substitutes. If, however, you've already seen it this year or you're allergic to black and white movies, there are alternatives.

MB: Richard, you are so right. The movie HAS to be in black and white to make us feel the spirit of Dickensian deprivation. It's the classic. But growing up in a Jewish household, it didn't have any importance to me as a child. I discovered it much later, and was transfixed by its narrative power and perfectly gloomy mood. May I contrast this with the Jim Carrey version? Now that's a movie with no sense of mystery, and a buffoonish interpretation of the lead character. I feel sorry for children who grow up with this bloated, CGI-laden excuse for a classic. Richard, please don't tell me you like it!

RC: Before I saw the Jim Carrey version of A Christmas Carol I wondered why remake a story that has been done so often and so well in the past. I've seen it and I'm still wondering. The weirdly lifeless animation was creepy, akin to a Christmas story performed by zombies.

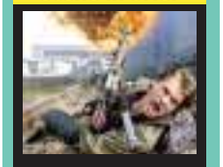
MB: Let me praise Bill Murray's version Scrooged. It's far from authentic, light years away from Dickens, but it makes its points in a very modern way. Bill Murray is great in it, and the writing is sharp and satirical. Setting it in the milieu of the television industry obviously changes the mood of the original, but as long as you see the movie as an interesting and successful riff upon the original story, and not as a substitute for it, it's a great movie for the season.

RC: I agree. It's become a must see for me every year. Although I don't have to see The Muppets Christmas Carol every year, it is a treat to see Michael Caine as Scrooge. I also like the musical Scrooge with Albert Finney in the lead.

MB: I've never seen it! I sure hope they gave Tiny Tim a tap solo.

2 scene

Scene in brief



If you're experiencing a joy overload on Christmas Day, revel in some apocalyptic fare at the movie theatre. The Darkest Hour opens Dec. 25. The film follows five people in Moscow fighting an alien race who have attacked Earth via our power supply.
METRO

00-who? Daniel Craig excels away from Bond, adds second franchise with Dragon Tattoo

Movie reviews See it twice ⊕⊕⊕⊕ | See it now ⊕⊕⊕⊕ | Worth watching ⊕⊕⊕ | Yawn ⊕⊕ | Don't bother ⊕

We Bought a Zoo
Genre: Comedy
Director: Cameron Crowe
Stars: Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church
⊕⊕⊕

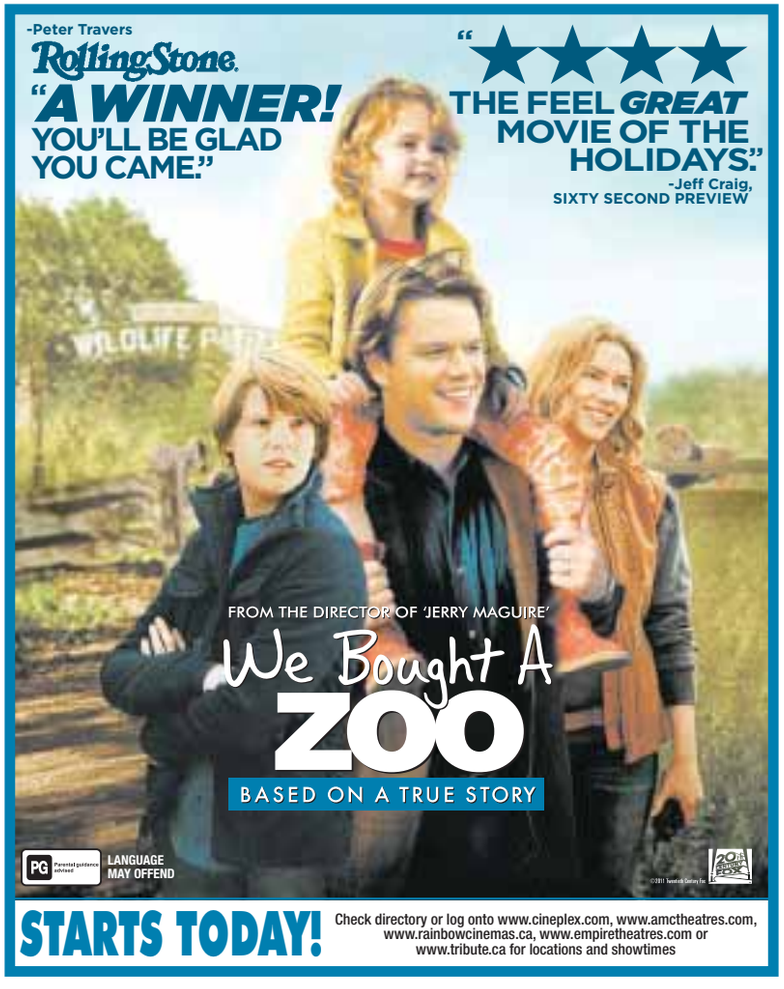
Cameron Crowe might not seem on surface the first choice for a family friendly comedy, but a closer look at his work — from Almost Famous to Jerry Maguire — proves otherwise. Crowe's pictures almost always deal with family situations, mostly unorthodox, but always gripped by truth and sentimentality. His adaptation of the best-selling book, We Bought a Zoo, is really just another Crowe joint: melancholy yet joyous, optimistic and truthful. Matt Damon is in fine form as the still-aching widow who moves his two children to a dilapidated country zoo and he's matched by Scarlett Johansen as a feisty zookeeper. ⊕ CHRIS ALEXANDER

War Horse
Genre: Drama
Director: Steven Spielberg
Stars: Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson
⊕⊕⊕

A book-turned-play-turned Steven Spielberg epic, War Horse is a manipulated but multilayered telling of the First World War through the eyes of a tempestuous thoroughbred. Combining several characters from both sides of the battle, Spielberg overextends his focus on sentimentality but as he's proved in Saving Private Ryan, nobody crafts cinematic combat scenes better and the auteur succeeds most notably with a stunningly filmed cavalry charge that outlines the harrowing carnage of war. ⊕ STEVE GOW

The Artist
Genre: Drama
Director: Michel Hazanavicius
Stars: Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo, John Goodman
⊕⊕⊕⊕

Black and white; silent; set in silent-era Hollywood; and subtitled, The Artist may not scream mainstream must see, but it's one of the year's most gloriously memorable films. This French jewel is magical, pure and dreamy on the surface, blazing emotion and irrevocable change underneath. Dujardin is Valentin, the toast of Tinseltown, a matinée idol who charms the birds out of the fake trees that line Mulholland Drive. But he's about to lose it all if he can't make the cut to sound. The Artist feels like a fairy tale, something you're watching in a theatre and it is 1927.
⊕ ANNE BRODIE


-Peter Travers
Rolling Stone
"A WINNER! YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU CAME."
"★★★★ THE FEEL GREAT MOVIE OF THE HOLIDAYS."
-Jeff Craig, SIXTY SECOND PREVIEW
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'JERRY MAGUIRE'
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Top 5 actors to watch next year...

DOUGLAS BOOTH

Could the role of Romeo in the latest Romeo and Juliet turn Booth into another Leonardo DiCaprio? With a second starring role alongside Disney princess-turned-stoner Miley Cyrus in LOL..., well, look at the kid's hair. It's a little like Leo.

MICHAEL FASSBENDER

We're not going to hide our partiality to this Irish-German export, 34, who was ubiquitous in 2011 with an impressive four releases, including X-Men: First Class and Jane Eyre. His upcoming spy flick with director Steven Soderbergh, Haywire (Jan. 20), combined with all the awards-season buzz he's been getting for his performance in 2011's Shame will propel Fassbender to A-List by the time his sci-fi film Prometheus, a semi-prequel to Alien, is released in the summer (June 8).

CHRIS DIAMANTOPOULOS

We finally learned how to spell Galifianakis, so it's about time another comedic actor with an impossibly lengthy Greek last name take the scene by storm. Audiences first got to meet D-what's-his-face on the American sitcom Up All Night but the Greco-Canadian actor will get even more exposure this spring (April 13) with the release of The Three Stooges, in which he plays Moe, the only Stooge with a passable haircut.

TAYLOR KITSCH

The Friday Night Lights star appears in two huge movies this summer: the sci-fi epic John Carter, set on Mars, and Battleship, a sci-fi version of the popular board game. Finally, he'll be known for something more than his abs.

JOSH HUTCHERSON

This 19-year-old actor has been working steadily in Hollywood, but it'll be the March 23 release of the highly anticipated film adaptation of The Hunger Games that makes him a star. While we can't promise he'll be the next Robert Pattinson — sorry, RPatz will always have a special vampire lair in our hearts — the series' rabid fanbase will give Hutcherson a fast pass to megastardom. Especially because it's a romantic lead. (For younger kids, he's also in 2012's Journey 2: The Mysterious Island.)

RICHARD ROEPER
"ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMANCES OF THE YEAR IN ONE OF THE BEST MOVIES OF 2011."

"CHARLIZE THERON IS A COMIC FORCE OF NATURE."
Rolling Stone
Peter Travers

"★★★★★"
San Francisco Chronicle
Mick LaSalle

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ALL PHOTOS HANDOUTS

▶ The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey is probably the most anticipated film of 2012. Peter Jackson and old friends reunite in this prequel, which is due in December.

Year of the superhero?

From comic book films to literary adaptations, 2012 looks very promising

The Dark Knight Rises
We're just as curious to see how Christopher Nolan rounds out his trilogy of Batman films — he insists this is the final chapter — as we are to see if The Dark Knight Rises can come close to matching the $1 billion that 2008's The Dark Knight pulled in worldwide. Christian Bale is back as Batman, along with Michael Caine as Alfred and Gary Oldman as Commissioner Gordon, and for this go round they're joined by newcomers Tom Hardy (as Bane) and Catwoman Anne Hathaway. Due in July. NED EHRBAR

The Avengers
After great turns in their own films in 2011, Captain America (Chris Evans) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) join up with Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) for the ensemble flick Marvel Studios has been building to since Samuel L. Jackson popped up after the credits of 2008's Iron Man. And while the first trailer might just look like an ad for Iron Man 3, having director Joss Whedon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer) at the helm is keeping hopes high. Due in May.

The Hunger Games and Twilight finale
With the Twilight saga wrapping up at the end of 2012, all eyes are on Lionsgate's adaptation of Suzanne Collins' bestselling teen dystopia to fill the void. There are three books in the Hunger Games series, but if the first movie is a hit, don't be surprised if the latter chapters start getting split up into multiple films. Jennifer Lawrence stars. Due in March.

The Amazing Spider-Man
Exactly 10 years after Tobey Maguire first crawled up his first wall, the web-slinger saga is starting over, this time with Andrew Garfield (The Social Network) suiting up as Spider-Man and director Marc Webb (500 Days of Summer) behind the camera. The new version promises to be darker and grittier than the last run, but with Spider-Man 3 just five years behind it, will audiences be interested in the franchise reboot? Due in July.

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ZOO MAIN LEVEL
*The Zoo is now open on Thursdays 6:30pm-12:00am Free Admission

Friday, December 23 - New Renaissance, El Diablo & Viridians ... $5 at the door
Friday, December 30 - Turtillian, Theo Tzu, Red Worm & El Richee
Saturday, December 31 - "ZOO YEARS EVE" Feat. Eyam, Bladelazer, Tyrants Demise, Mortal Ruins & Keiron Kancer ... Adv.tix $10 / $12 at the door
Friday, January 13 - All On Red, The Pinkslips & The Animalistics
Saturday, January 14 - Walking In Ashes, King Sleeze & Senor Dinosaur ... $6 at the door
Friday, January 20 - 2MSU, Split Lip Grin, Sixteen Eyes & Medicated Gurus ... $5 at the door
Saturday, January 21 - Laika w/ guests
Friday, January 27 - Giv'R, Broken Roadie & Caulk ... Adv.tix $5 / $7 at the door
Saturday, January 28 - Nick Thayer(Australia), Moombathon, DJ Coda & Pucona, The Vaxxine & Ill Type ... Adv.tix $10
Friday, February 3 - The Legion Of Liquor w/ guests
Friday, February 10 - Dark Funeral(Sweden), Abigail Williams(California), Inquisition(Columbia) & Gigan(Illinois) ... Adv.tix $25
Friday, February 17 - Walking In Ashes, Torn From Flames w/ guests

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Saturday, December 24 - 'After Dark XMas Eve' Feat. Dj Macabria, Dj Razed & Dj Evil Bastard ... Free Admission
Wednesday, December 28 - 'New Music Wednesdays' Feat. Everyday Feels Like Sunday, Crowdust w/ guests ... $3 at the door
Friday, December 30 -Intoxicated Security, Sorites Paradox & Mercy Street ... $5 at the door
Saturday, December 31- "APOCALYPSE 2012" Feat. Dj Razed, Dj Macabria, Dj Count Zero, Soul Killing Female & Synthroid ... Adv.tix $7 / $10 at the door
Wednesday, January 4 - 'New Music Wednesdays' MB Music Night Feat. Fire And Smoke, From Giants & Stu Porteous ... $3 at the door
Friday, January 6 - The Dunce, 77 Guns, Penetrator & Flash Out ... $5 at the door
Wednesday, January 11 - 'New Music Wednesdays' Feat. Diablero w/ guests ... $3 at the door
Friday, January 13 - Eyam, Damascus, Arcane Axiom & Abhorupt ... $7 at the door
Wednesday, January 18 - 'New Music Wednesdays' Feat. Thrizm w/ guests ... $3 at the door
Friday, January 20 - 'IMissHipHop' Dj's tba
Friday, January 27 - 'Social Fundraiser For Len Zimmerman'
Saturday, February 4 - 'The 100th Ball (Fetish Event)
Tuesday, February 7 - 'Metal Night' (Debut Night) ... $3 at the door

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Dolphin Tale (G) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:20 Sun 3:20 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:20
Drive (18A) Fri 3:55-9:35 Sat 3:55 Sun-Thu 3:55-9:35
Footloose (PG) Fri 6:30-9:10 Sat 6:30 Sun-Thu 6:30-9:10
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Sat 12:50-7:10 Sun 7:10 Mon-Thu 12:50-7:10
Happy Feet Two 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:30-5 Sun 5 Mon-Thu 2:30-5
The Help (PG) Fri 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:50 Sat 12:10-3:30-6:40 Sun 3:30-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:50
The Ides of March (14A) Fri 4:50-10:10 Sat 4:50 Sun-Thu 4:50-10:10
Immortals (18A) Sun 3:50-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7-9:40
In Time (PG) Fri 12:40-3:50-7-9:40 Sat 12:40-3:50-7
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 2:25-5:05-7:50-10:35 Sat 2:25-5:05-7:50 Sun 5:05-7:50-10:35 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:50-10:35
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Sat 2:20-7:35 Sun 7:35 Mon-Thu 2:20-7:35
Moneyball (PG) Fri-Sat 1-6:20 Sun 6:20 Mon-Thu 1-6:20
Real Steel (PG) Fri 1:10-4-6:50-10 Sat 1:10-4-6:50 Sun 4-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-10
The Three Musketeers 3D (PG) Fri 2-4:55-7:40-10:25 Sat 2-4:55-7:40 Sun 4:55-7:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 2-4:55-7:40-10:25
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 2:10-4:45-8-10:30 Sat 2:10-4:45-8 Sun 4:45-8-10:30 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:45-8-10:30
A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (18A) Fri 7:30-10:10 Sat 7:30 Sun-Thu 7:30-10:10
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 4:10-9:55 Sat 4:10 Sun-Thu 4:10-9:55

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Don 2 (STC) Fri 12:50-4:40-8:10 Sat 12:50-4:40 Sun 4:40-8:10 Mon-Thu 12:50-4:40-8:10
Drive (18A) Fri 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:30 Sat 1:50-4:30-7:10 Sun-Thu 10:20
Footloose (PG) Fri 4:20-9:20 Sat 4:20 Sun-Thu 4:20-9:20
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri 12:50-3:20-6-8:30 Sat 12:50-3:20-6 Sun 3:20-5:40-8 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:20-5:40-8
Immortals (18A) Sun 4:30-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 1-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50 Sat 1-3:10-5:20-7:30 Sun 3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 1-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-7 Sun 7 Mon-Thu 1:40-7
Real Steel (PG) Fri 1:10-4-6:50-9:40 Sat 1:10-4-6:50 Sun 4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:40
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat 1:30-4:10-6:40 Sun 4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10 Sat 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50 Sun 3:30-5:40-7:50-10 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10

City Cinema - Northgate 1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234

Don 2 (STC) Fri 12:50-4:40-8:10 Sat 12:50-4:40 Sun 4:40-8:10 Mon-Thu 12:50-4:40-8:10
Drive (18A) Fri 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:30 Sat 1:50-4:30-7:10 Sun-Thu 10:20
Footloose (PG) Fri 4:20-9:20 Sat 4:20 Sun-Thu 4:20-9:20
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri 12:50-3:20-6-8:30 Sat 12:50-3:20-6 Sun 3:20-5:40-8 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:20-5:40-8
Immortals (18A) Sun 4:30-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-10
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 1-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50 Sat 1-3:10-5:20-7:30 Sun 3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 1-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:50
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri-Sat 1:40-7 Sun 7 Mon-Thu 1:40-7
Real Steel (PG) Fri 1:10-4-6:50-9:40 Sat 1:10-4-6:50 Sun 4-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:10-4-6:50-9:40
Tower Heist (PG) Fri 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10 Sat 1:30-4:10-6:40 Sun 4:10-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:40-9:10
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10 Sat 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50 Sun 3:30-5:40-7:50-10 Mon-Thu 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10

Famous Players Kildonan Place 1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 12:40-2:50-5:7:20-9:30 Sat 12:40-2:50-5:7:20 Sun 5:7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:40-2:50-5:7:20-9:30
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri 12:20-3:30-6:40-10 No Passes Sat 12:20-3:30-6:40 No Passes Sun 3:30-6:40-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:20-3:30-6:40-10
Hugo (PG) Fri 1:10-4:10-7-9:50 Sat 1:10-4:10-7 Sun 4:10-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:10-7-9:50
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Fri 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:10 No Passes Sat 12:50-3:50-7:10 No Passes Sun 3:50-7:10-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:10-10:10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri 1-4-6:50-9:50 No Passes Sat 1-4-6:50 No Passes Sun 4-6:50-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 1-4-6:50-9:50
The Sitter (14A) Fri 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30-9 Sat 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Sun 4:30-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30-9

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084

The Adventures of Tintin (PG), No Passes, Fri-Sat 1
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG), No Passes, Fri 3:35-6:30-9:20, No Passes, Sat 3:35-6:30, No Passes, Sun 6:30-9:20, No Passes, Mon-Thu 3:35-6:30-9:20
The Descendants (14A) Fri 12:55-3:55-7:10-9:50 Sat 12:55-3:55-7:10 Sun 7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:10-9:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A), No Passes, Fri 3-6:25-9:40, No Passes, Sat 3-6:25, No Passes, Sun 6:25-9:40, No Passes, Mon-Thu 3-6:25-9:40
Hugo 3D (PG), Fri 12:40-3:40-6:20-9:30, Sat 12:40-3:40-6:20, Sun 6:20-9:30, Mon-Thu 3:40-6:20-9:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A), No Passes, Fri 1:10-3:30-6:55-9:55, No Passes, Sat 1:10-3:30-6:55, No Passes, Sun 6:55-9:55, No Passes, Mon-Thu 3:30-6:55-9:55
New Year's Eve (PG) , Fri 12:30-3:20-6:15-9:25 , Sat 12:30-3:20-6:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC), , No Passes Fri 12:20-3:50-6:45-9:45, , No Passes Sat 12:20-3:50-6:45, , No Passes Sun 6:45-9:45, , No Passes Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:45
War Horse (PG), Sun 7:30, Mon-Thu 3:25-7:30
We Bought a Zoo (G), Fri 12:50-3:45-7:10, Sat 12:50-3:45-7, Sun 7:10, Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Tue 12 Thu 12
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun
Puss in Boots: An IMAX 3D Experience (G) Fri 12:15-7:15 Sat 12-3:15 Mon-Thu 3:45
Space Station (STC) Mon 12 Wed 12
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Fri 2:15 Sat 2 Mon-Thu 2:30
The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D (STC) Fri 11-6 Mon-Thu 1:15

Landmark Globe Cinema 393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Fri 6:45-9:50 Sat 3:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:50
Take Shelter (14A) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat 3:30
War Horse (PG) Mon 1-3:50-6:50-9:45 Tue-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:45
Young Adult (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat 3:20 Mon 1:10-3:20-7:10-9:30 Tue-Thu 3:20-7:10-9:30

Landmark Towne Cinema 8, 301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Fri 3:45-7-9:30 Sat 1:15 Mon 1:15-3:45-7-9:30 Tue-Thu 3:45-7-9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 3:30-7-9:15 Sat 1:15 Mon 1:15-3:30-7-9:15 Tue-Thu 3:30-7-9:15
The Darkest Hour (PG) Mon 1:30-4-7:15-9:30 Tue-Thu 4-7:15-9:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) Fri 3:45-6:30-9:30 Sat 12:45 Mon 12:45-3:45-6:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:30
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:15 Sat 1
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri 4-6:45-9:30 Sat 1 Mon 1-4-6:45-9:30 Tue-Thu 4-6:45-9:30
The Sitter (14A) Fri 9:30 Mon-Thu 9:30
Take Shelter (14A) Mon-Thu 9:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 3:45-6:45 Sat 1 Mon 1-3:45-6:45 Tue-Thu 3:45-6:45
The Way (PG) Fri 4-6:45-9:15 Sat 1:30 Mon 1:30-4-6:45-9:15 Tue-Thu 4-6:45-9:15
We Bought a Zoo (G) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:15 Sat 12:45 Mon 12:45-3:30-6:30-9:15 Tue-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:15

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:2:40-5:20-8:10:40
The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-5
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri-Sat 12:1:15-2:20-3:35-4:40-5:55-8:15-10:35 Sun-Thu 11:55-1:15-2:15-3:35-4:35-5:55-8:15-10:35
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 12:45
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun-Thu 1:40-4-6:20-8:40-11
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri 12:25-3:10-3:55-6:40-7:25-10:10-10:55 No Passes Sat 12:25-3:10-3:55-6:40-7:25-10:10 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:25-3:10-3:55-6:40-7:25-10:10-10:55
Hansel and Gretel: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Thu 11
Immortals (18A) Fri 12:20-3-5:40-8:20-11 Sat 12:20-3-5:40-8:20-10:45
The Magic Flute: Met Opera Holiday Encore (STC) Wed 11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:35-3:40-6:45-9:45
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-7:30-10:30
The Muppets (G) Fri-Thu 11:35
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-10
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:50 No Passes Sat 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:40 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:50 No Passes Fri-Sat 7-10:05 No Passes Sun-Thu 6:55-9:55
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Sat 1:35-3:45-5:55-8:05-10:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 2:10-4:55-7:40-10:25 Sun-Thu 2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 12:30-3:45-7:05-10:15
We Bought a Zoo (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:20
Young Adult (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:45

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 1:10-4:20-7:20-10 No Passes Sat 1:10-4:20-7:20 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:20-10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 12:30-1:40-2:50-4:10-5:10-7:40-9:50 Sat-Thu 12:30-1:40-2:50-4:10-5:10-7:40
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Thu 1:20
The Darkest Hour 3D (PG) Sun-Thu 1:50-4:50-8-10:20
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Fri 12-3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Sat 12-3:30-7 No Passes Sun-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Fri 12:20-3:50-7:30-10:40 No Passes Sat 12:20-3:50-7:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:20-3:50-7:30-10:40
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 4:40-7:50-10:40 Sat 4:40-7:50 Sun-Thu 4:40-7:50-10:40
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sat 12:50-4-7:10 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Fri 6:30-9:30 No Passes Sat 6:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 6:30-9:30
The Sitter (14A) Fri 1:30-4:50-8-10:10 Sat 1:30-4:50-8 Sun-Thu 9:50
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 1-3:50-6:50-9:50 Sat 1-3:50-6:50
War Horse (PG) No Passes Sun-Thu 12:10-3:50-7:10-10:30
We Bought a Zoo (G) No Passes Fri 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40

Just because he wears lots of eyeliner...

Adam Lambert gets into a gay bar brawl in Helsinki

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Well, this is awesome: Former American Idol star Adam Lambert was arrested and briefly jailed in Finland after reportedly getting into a gay bar brawl with his boyfriend, Finnish Big Brother star Sauli Koskinen, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Lambert is in Helsinki to spend Christmas with Koskinen's family, and the couple was out drinking with Finnish beauty queen and ex-Miss Helsinki Sofia Ruusila when an argument between the two men turned violent, causing them to be kicked out of the bar.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Adam Lambert

Their fight continued in the street, where Lambert reportedly hit Ruusila by mistake, she told a Finnish entertainment channel. Lambert and Koskinen were arrested and questioned for several hours before being released Thursday afternoon.

Finnish beauty queens, gay bar fights, jail time — and here you thought you'd have an interesting Christmas break if your mother had two glasses of wine instead of her usual one. Adam Lambert for the win!

Is Jamie Bell looking for a ring?

▶ Jamie Bell and Rachel Wood

The rekindled romance must be working, because Jamie Bell and Evan Rachel Wood are reportedly thinking about marriage.

"They have been shopping for rings for at least a month," a source tells Us Weekly.

And the two certainly aren't afraid of commitment, as they reportedly got matching tattoos during their initial courtship in 2006.

"Evan and Jamie were really young and just getting going in their careers when they first met and they just weren't ready," another source tells Radar Online.

"Now that they are older and both excelling in their professional lives, I think they feel ready to take their relationship to the next level."

METRO

Kutcher moves on

Ashton Kutcher was spotted hanging out with three women in Berlin this week, where he's reportedly researching a new venture, according to Hollyscoop.

Kutcher and the women were spotted getting into his chauffeur-driven car together, though he was later seen heading into an apartment with just one of them, a brunette. METRO

Celebrity tweets

@John_Lithgow

OMG. In my next role I need to speak Chinese! Curious?

@CarrieFFisher

I'm watching a really relaxing 20-hour show called The Killing. I've been watching it for 3 days. I only have a few days left. It's a Danish show. I should be fluent by Friday. I FEEL fluent. Bloated & fluent.

@ThatKevinSmith

Perfect cheap-yet-personal last minute gift for a beloved Tweeter in your life? Make a book of their Tweets

@kevin_nealon

Kim Jung Un has some small shoes to fill.

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LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

As sure as the Grinch stole Christmas, it's a given that we'll all receive at least one bottle of wine as a gift from a co-worker, guest or neighbour over the holiday season.

In my house, I pick the wines that go with Xmas dinner so — while much appreciated — anything that shows up at the door goes into the wine rack for future enjoyment.

Of course, considering how my family can plow through my wine selection, it would be nice if more of the freebies came with a roast turkey match in mind.

For reds, bring a plump New World pinot noir from California or Canada, a chocolaty old vines zinfandel (also from Cali.) or, for a slightly unconventional Old World partner, a Crianza or Reserva from Spain's Rioja region.

On the white side, think a not so oaky chardonnay from Australia or Chile, a German riesling or a rich, multi-blend like the ripe, refreshing cornucopia of grape flavours (five in all) that is California's Caymus 2009 Conundrum ($23.95 - $29.99).

Happy holidays! **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Happy healthy holidays

This Beef Wellington contains just 11 grams of fat and 328 calories

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This recipe serves eight.

Ingredients:

- 900 g (32 oz) beef tenderloin, centre cut, trimmed of all visible fat
- Salt and black pepper
- 7 ml (1/2 tbsp) olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 285 g (10 oz) button mushrooms, sliced
- 250 ml (1 cup) diced onion
- 12 ml (2 1/2 tsp) thyme
- 1 pkg (284 g/10 oz) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 2 egg whites, beaten
- 400 ml (1 2/3 cups) Bisquick Heart Smart Pancake and Baking Mix
- 5 chunks dried porcini mushrooms
- 22 ml (3/4 oz) beef jerky, finely shredded
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) Madeira
- 22 ml (1 1/2 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 10 ml (2 tsp) soy sauce

Preparation:

1. Heat oven to 190 C (375 F). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Season beef liberally with salt and pepper.
2. In sauté pan over medium-high, heat olive oil. When oil just smoking, add beef. Brown on all sides, 1 to 2 minutes per side. Once browned, remove beef and place on a rack to rest.
3. Add garlic to hot pan and cook until lightly browned, 20 seconds. Add mushrooms and onion and cook until soft and tender and all liquid has evaporated, 10 mins. Season with salt and pepper and add 10 ml (2 tsp) of the thyme.
4. Set aside 50 ml (1/4 cup) of mushroom-onion mix. Transfer rest to food processor and pulse to roughly chop until reduced to 5-mm (1/4-inch) pieces. Transfer to bowl and refrigerate 5 mins. Once slightly cooled, add spinach and egg whites and mix well.
5. In bowl, stir pancake mix with just enough water, about 75 ml (1/3 cup), to moisten and make dough that holds together but is not sticky. On lightly floured surface, roll dough to a thin rectangle that is 5 cm (2 inches) longer than the beef roast. Place beef on dough. Spoon spinach and mushroom mix on top and sides of beef and pat down tightly. Fold dough up and over top of beef and spinach and crimp seams together.
6. Place meat, seam side down, on baking sheet. Cut slits in top to vent. Bake 40 mins. or until centre registers 60 C (140 F). Remove from oven, cover with foil and let rest for 10 minutes.
7. Meanwhile, place 2 of porcini chunks in a spice grinder and grind to fine powder. Place mushroom powder, remaining whole porcini mushroom chunks and shredded jerky in a microwave-safe bowl with 500 ml (2 cups) of water. Microwave high until water is simmering. Let sit for 5 minutes and repeat.
8. Pour Madeira into small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to boil and boil 5 mins. or until reduced by half. Pour dried mushroom and beef broth through fine mesh strainer into Madeira while pushing on jerky and mushrooms to extract as much liquid as possible. Remove whole pieces of porcini mushrooms and roughly chop; set aside. Discard jerky. Bring broth and Madeira mix to a boil.
9. In bowl, combine arrowroot and 60 ml (4 tbsp) cold water. Mix and add to simmering sauce. Cook and stir 1 min or until sauce thickens. Add soy sauce, remaining thyme, reserved porcini and reserved mushroom and onion mix. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Slice roast into 8 even slices and arrange on a platter. Serve with sauce. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO**

3 life

Some common sense can help keep food healthy and safe during the festive season

A Winnipeg company is currently looking for an employee with exceptional knowledge of Cantonese and Szechuan style cuisine (including traditional Hong Kong dim sum and Hong Kong style bakery and pastry), is able to and willing to train and to provide recipes and share your skills and knowledge and cooking techniques to the master chefs and sous chefs of the company. You have the following experience: (i) over 5 years experiences of training chefs; (ii) over 5 years experiences of a master chef; and (iii) experiences with opening new restaurants. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. Please send your resume to the following: Eric at: epl663@hotmail.ca

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HOLIDAY 2011
gift guide

Keeping a tab on technology

Flat, hard packages will be welcome this year. Tablet computers are extremely popular, and electronic reading devices such as the Kindle have matured and come down in price.

Which one to get? That's mostly a matter of your budget.

If you have more than $300 to spend, go for one of these full-size tablets. They have colour screens that are about nine inches diagonally, and they have built-in cameras.

Apple 16GB iPad 2 ($498.99 at Future Shop)
The device that made tablet computing mainstream still reigns, outselling all others combined. It's thinner than competing tablets and has access to an unparalleled array of applications: Half a million, of which 140,000 are adapted for the iPad's 9.7-inch screen.

That means more good games, more useful reference apps and more entertainment options. The range of third-party book apps also means the iPad beats dedicated e-readers at their own game by giving users the ability to read books purchased from any store.

Sony S1 16GB Tablet ($399.99 at Best Buy)
There are a slew of tablets from Samsung, Sony, LG and other manufacturers built around Google Inc.'s Android software. From a hardware standpoint, they are not much different from the iPad, though most of them are thicker.

The Tablet S stands out by including an infrared emitter, which makes it usable as a large universal remote control. It has a 9.4-inch screen, slightly smaller than the iPad's. It runs the latest version of Android, which is specially designed for tablets and is slick.

KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE
A model plays a game on Sony's new Tablet S during a launch event in Tokyo.

JIM SULLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE
The new Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet.

JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE
The Apple iPad 2.

AMAZON.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE
The Amazon Kindle Touch 3G.

ASUS 10.1" Eee Pad Transformer, 16GB ($346 at Wal-Mart)
The Transformer is a reasonably priced Android tablet that doubles as a "netbook," or small laptop, if you buy an accessory keyboard dock for $109. The keyboard has a touchpad, extra ports and an additional power pack, which prolongs battery life.

For those willing to travel

If you only want to spend $200 US to $250 US, go for one of these e-reader/tablet hybrids, but they aren't yet available in Canada. They add movies, games and other applications to the e-reader's capabilities, so they are not just for bookworms.

Amazon Kindle Fire ($199 US)
The Fire is Amazon's first colour Kindle. It runs a highly modified, user-friendly version of Android. The selection of apps is smaller than for other Android tablets, however.

Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet ($249 US)
The bookstore's answer to the Kindle Fire is an updated version of last year's Nook Color, a solid and successful e-reader. The Tablet has more memory than the Color or the Kindle Fire.

If your budget is limited to $150, you will be tempted by some low-end colour tablets. But giving one away is like giving away a lump of coal: The colour touch screens that go into sub-$200 devices look bad and have problems responding to fingers.

Instead, get one of these lightweight, quality e-readers with black-and-white "electronic ink" screens for the bookworm in your life

Amazon Kindle Touch 3G ($149 US)
Amazon still has a variety of monochrome Kindles, including its first touch-screen model. The screen is more legible than colour screens in bright daylight and uses very little power. But it's slow to respond, making navigation tedious.

Barnes & Noble Nook Simple Touch ($99 US)
This slim, light e-reader is very similar to the $99 non-3G Kindle Touch. Barnes & Noble's version has two advantages: It doesn't display advertising, and it can load books from other bookstores, including Google Books. It can't load Kindle books, though.

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Elephant Necklace, $40, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

TORI.XO Shoreline Bangle, $220, available at torixo.com.

Astrid Necklace, $40, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

Lindy Ring,$19.50, available at Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

TORI.XO Chantilly Ring, $95, available at torixo.com.

Jewel Box, $16.99, available at HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Swirl Ring, $24, Foxy Originals, foxyoriginals.com.

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Season's eatings

Baker Street Whoopies, $1.99 per whoopie, available nationally at retailers including Longo's, Metro, Loblaws, Sobeys, Sumerhill, Pusateri's and Garden Fresh Market.

Almond Clusters, 8 oz, $18, available at Indigo, chapters. indigo.ca.

Peanut Butter Cups with Fleur De Sel, $20, available at Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca.

Chocolate Boxes from Hudson's Bay Company Confectionary, $8.99 each, available at the Bay, thebay.com.

Tim Hortons Double Double Coffee Flavour Chocolate Truffles, $5.95, available at Tim Hortons, timhortons.com.

Skillet Street Food Bacon Jam, $19.95 for a 300g container, available at fine food stores. A list of retail stores can be found at skilletstreetfood.com.

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Finishing touches

Blue Lagoon, Filthy Rich, Celestial Star Quo By Orly Nail Polish, $10 each, available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Quo Wood Grain Brush Collection, $45, available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

M.A.C Cosmetics Dazzlesphere! Pink Ornament, $38.50, available at maccosmetics.com.

Sephora Wild and Chic Aqua Eyes Collection, $36, sephora.com.

Victoria's Secret Angel Eau de Parfum, $45-$75, available at Victoria's Secret, victoriassecret.com.

Pink Icicle Lip Gloss, $30, available at Cake Beauty, cakebeauty.com.

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Seasonal Cheer

Your wine and spirits guide

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

Buying a bottle of booze as a gift is easy, right?

Buying the right bottle; now there's the challenge. Whether you have a wine, beer or spirit lover on your list one of these liquid gems is guaranteed to please.

White Owl Whisky ($34.95-$39.99)
Sure, while Canadian spirits are usually brown, this unique blend of aged whiskies is filtered clear without losing any of its rich, rounded flavours.

St-Germain Liqueur ($44.42-$59.99)
This wine lover's liqueur is made with French hand-picked elderflower blossoms. Soft and refreshing, it's a perfect ingredient for champagne cocktails on Christmas morning.

Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico ($38.95-$49.99)
Is there a red wine that appeals to every palate? I say it's Amarone. Made with dried grapes it's the ideal conversation vino that speaks volumes all by itself.

Crystal Head Vodka ($44.98-$59.95)
OK, a skull-shaped bottle may not scream happy holidays, but this diamond-filtered neutral spirit — designed by Ghostbuster Dan Aykroyd — will add some seasonal magic to any vodka cocktail.

Veuve Clicquot Brut Champagne Ice Jacket ($65.15-$69)
Veuve's non-vintage yellow-labelled bubbly is a standard. Add a neoprene slip cover that will keep the passion juice cold for up to two hours and you are talking perfection.

St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur ($24.85-$28.98)
Cream liqueurs are a holiday essential and this one — made with a base of St-Rémy brandy — has a sexy creaminess that marries perfectly with its smooth alcohol base.

Skate Whisky ($49.98-$49.99)
You will score with any Canadian whisky loving hockey fan gifting this spirit that's smooth and subtle on the inside and classically kitschy (in a good way) on the outside.

Wychwood Bah Humbug Christmas Ale ($3.50-$5.29)
Ebenezer Scrooge's sour puss may be on the label, but this malty English ale will have the beer fans carolling.

The Kraken Black Spiced Rum ($26.99-$34.99)
Eggnog, meet your match. Dark, black and spicy, The Kraken unleashes major flavours that are exceptionally mixable and darn tasty on their own, too.

Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port ($3,495.99)
The wine for this once-in-a-lifetime tipple has been aged in barrels since 1855. Thought to be the last of its kind, there is no better way to say Merry Christmas.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Clockwise from top: St-Germain Liqueur; Wychwood Bah Humbug Christmas Ale; Masi 2007 Costasera Amarone Classico; The Kraken Black Spiced Rum; St-Rémy à la Crème Liqueur; Crystal Head Vodka; Skate Whisky; White Owl Whisky; and Taylors Fladgate Scion Tawny Port.

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His favourite things

Sidney Crosby Composite Stick Regular Flex Senior, $49.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Crosby SC87 4 Pump Hockey Skates – Senior, $179.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Lululemon Formula Pant, $84, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

Team Canada Slap Shot Hoody, $69.99, available at Sport Chek, sportchek.ca.

Clif Chocolate Chip Peanut Crunch Protein Bar, left, $15 (12 bars per box) and Clif Shot Energy Gel, $24.99 (24 packages per box) available at clifbar.com.

Reebok 10K Back Pack Hockey Bag, $99.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Lululemon DTB Duffle, $78, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

ObusForme Aura 30 Daypack, $34.99, available at mass retailers nationwide, obusforme.ca.

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junior gold 'earned, not given'

Canada is again a contender for gold at the world junior hockey championship, but the host country will have to fight off stiff challenges from the United States, Russia and Sweden.

Canada opens the 2012 world junior tournament Sunday in Edmonton against Finland, a dark horse in the race for gold.

Canadian teams have reached the final of the event in every year for the last decade and won half of them. Fair or not, Canadians have come to depend on seeing their country in the championship game.

So the biggest challenge Canada's 2012 edition faces is avoiding a sense of entitlement.

On the back of the players' T-shirts during selection camp in Calgary earlier this month was the slogan "earned, not given."

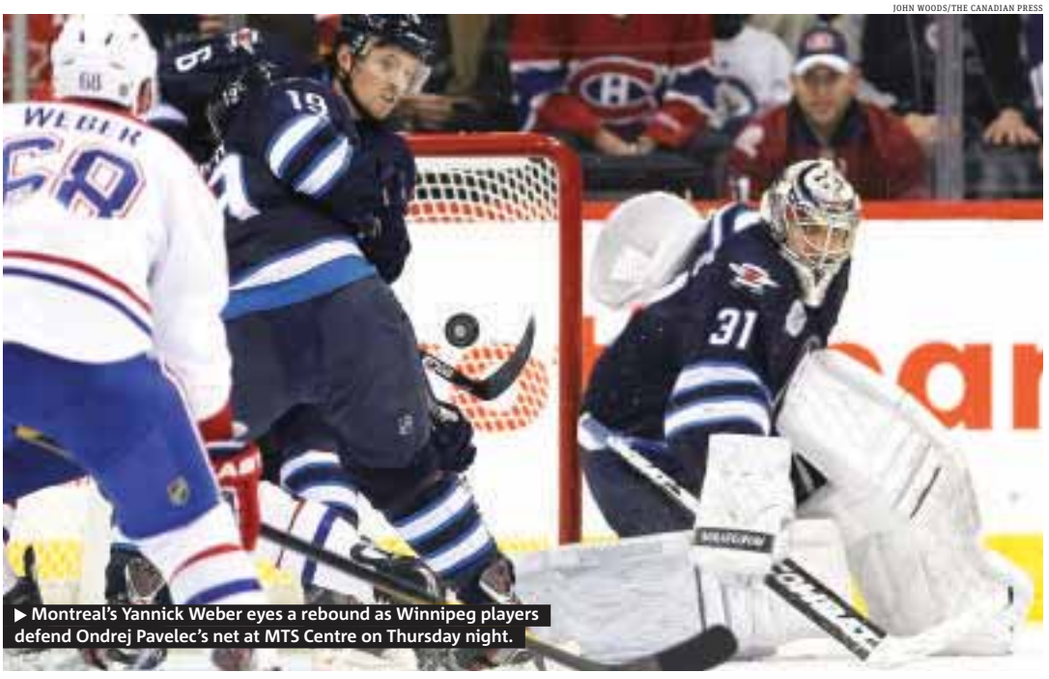
"There's no rule that we deserve gold every year," Canadian head coach Don Hay said. "Other countries want it too and there's other countries that believe they play the right way."

After a run of five straight gold, Canada lost in overtime to the U.S. in the 2010 final in Saskatoon and collapsed in the 2011 final in Buffalo, N.Y., when Russia scored five third period goals to win 5-3.

But to call Canada's campaign this year "redemption" is unfair because 18 of the 22 players on this year's team did not play in Buffalo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Montreal's Yannick Weber eyes a rebound as Winnipeg players defend Ondrej Pavelec's net at MTS Centre on Thursday night.

Jets send Canadiens further into slide

Reeling Habs dealt 5th straight loss as Winnipeg continues to gain steam

JETS	CANADIENS
4	0

Blake Wheeler had two goals and an assist to spark the Winnipeg Jets to a 4-0 victory over the slumping Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night.

Wheeler has overcome early scoring troubles with three goals in the last three games, giving him five on the season. The towering six-foot-five right-winger has also been one of the Jets' best set-up guys with 19 assists.

Winnipeg goalie Ondrej Pavelec stopped 27 shots for his third shutout of the season.

The Jets (16-13-5) earned seven of a possible 10 points on their current six-game home stand. They host the Pittsburgh Penguins on Friday night.

Tanner Glass and Tim Stapleton also scored for Winnipeg.

Montreal goaltender Carey Price made 30 saves, but the Canadiens (13-16-7) suffered their fifth straight defeat.

The Canadiens are off until Dec. 27, when they resume a six-game road trip in Ottawa.

Montreal still hasn't won since interim head coach Randy Cunneyworth replaced Jacques Martin, who was fired last week.

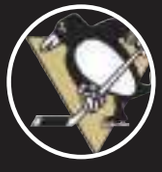
The move to promote Cunneyworth, a Jet for a very short time during the 1989-90 season, has sparked unrest in Quebec because he doesn't speak French. It's been decades since the Canadiens have had a non-French-speaking head coach.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Jets preview

Pittsburgh at Winnipeg
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN-Jets



The Jets (16-13-5) host Pittsburgh (19-11-4) for their second game in two nights. The Penguins are finding plenty of scoring without Sidney Crosby (concussion-like symptoms) thanks in part to Evgeni Malkin. Malkin has eight points in his last two games and 15 in his last six. Matt Niskanen is the power-play quarterback with eight points — five on the PP — in his last six games as Kris Letang (concussion) remains out. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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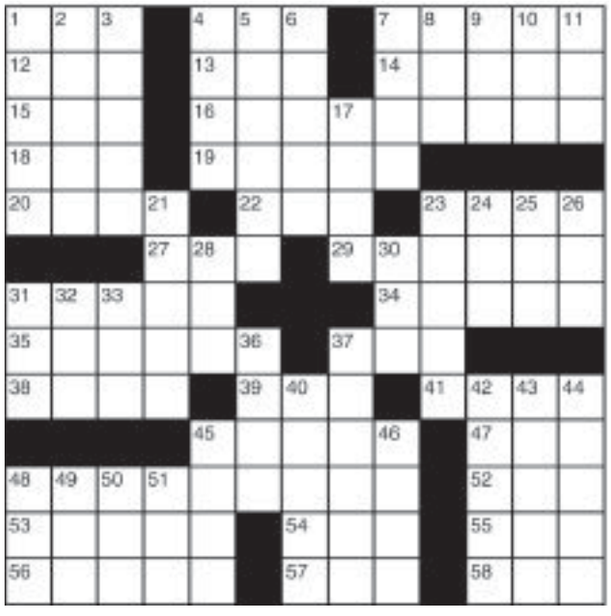

Across

1 Hot tub
4 Physicist's deg.
7 Cut in two
12 Chop
13 Scrooge's cry
14 Crosswise, nautically
15 Historic time
16 Four-line verses
18 Atmosphere
19 Seafood entree
20 Dog bane?
22 Very long time
23 Former frosh
27 Needlefish
29 There
31 Perfect
34 Perspectives
35 With 48-Across, "Family Feud" material
37 Bankroll
38 Oliver Twist's request
39 Clean Air Act org.
41 Send forth
45 Pilfered
47 Inseparable
48 See 35-Across
52 "Monty Python" opener
53 Pianist Eubie
54 Young seal
55 Prepared
56 Disrobe
57 Pigpen
58 Attempt

Down

1 Wheat bundle
2 Danger
3 Cognizant
4 Cookouts, for short
5 UFO, maybe
6 Guitarist once wed to Xavier Cugat
7 Difficult
8 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
9 Island garland
10 Forefront
11 Typog-raphy units
17 Broadway prize
21 Tequila source
23 Insinuating
24 "— on a Grecian Urn"
25 Church seat
26 Storefront sign abbr.
28 Hearty brew
30 Eggs
31 Doctrine
32 Pair with an air
33 Mess up
36 Abominable Snowman
37 Reddish brown
40 Tires (out)
42 Wettish
43 Bury
44 Irascible
45 Dance lesson
46 Catch sight of
48 Brady and Brees, for ex.
49 Last (Abbr.)
50 Listener
51 Tackle moguls

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

9			2		6			8
		5			3			
				8			1	
8	6			2				9
		7	5		9	4		
5				7			6	2
	1			4				
			6			5		
3			8		1			7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	3	5	6	2	7	1	9	4
1	2	9	3	8	4	6	5	7
6	4	7	5	1	9	3	8	2
4	1	8	9	5	6	7	2	3
7	6	3	8	4	2	5	1	9
9	5	2	1	7	3	4	6	8
2	9	6	4	3	1	8	7	5
3	8	1	7	9	5	2	4	6
5	7	4	2	6	8	9	3	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Me (D.B. my wish)
I bet a lot of us hoped to receive a similar message. Apologies are always welcome no matter what, and it's never too late for it. A simple lie might seem innocent at first, but when discovered can hurt a lot, way too much. So many things I should have said, so many questions that haven't been answered and it's probably why I can hardly move on. Merry Christmas xoxoxo
FROM MISSY

Missed Connection
May joy & goodwill be your gift on your birthday (The 29TH). May this Christmas day... be as special as you are to me! Wishing you a very heartfelt X Mas & wonderful New Year.
FROM SECRET CRUSH

A look at the weather

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Min -8° Max -5°	Min -6° Max 1°	Min -3° Max -1°

Michele McDougall
Weather Specialist
"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". **WEEKDAYS 5:30 A.M.**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be thinking a lot about your work and your reputation over the next few days.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If someone says you should not be concerned about what is going on in your immediate environment that means you should be very concerned indeed.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It would appear that you have been worrying about your money situation for no good reason.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are in two minds whether to get involved in a feud that is really none of your business.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 This is the ideal time to think of ways to reduce your chores and improve your health.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Your confidence is improving by the hour.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may find it hard to ask for assistance but ask you must because if you go it alone over the holiday period you could find yourself in a bit of a muddle.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The approaching new moon makes it easier for you to express yourself – and easier for others to understand what it is you are trying to say.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Good news from afar will cheer you up today.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You are on the cusp of a positive phase.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Don't snap at people who try to cheer you up — they mean well.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. This is a good day to contact friends and relatives and plan a get together.

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Caption contest

MUSADEQ SADEQ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LOOK AGAIN SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES IN THESE TWO IMAGES.

Montreal, Quebec – One fun thing leads to another as the shockingly powerful, ridiculously fuel-efficient 2012 Chevrolet Sonic hatch and sedan hit the downtown streets. As for sibling rivalry? Let's just say it's a good thing they're both confident in the looks department.

1. Removed street sign above the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic 5-door. 2. Removed walkway stripe below the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic 5-door. 3. Changed colour of building sign to yellow. 4. Added stripe to sweater. 5. Added a sign onto the patio wall. 6. Switched the direction of the patio lamp above the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic sedan. 7. Removed building décor from right side of corner building. 8. Removed a green flag from the hanging line. 9. Added building décor to left side of corner building. 10. Removed streetlight from right side of image

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